

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 516  
By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WDKN  
Radio.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable broadcasters whose employees have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, WDKN Radio in Dickson County is one such remarkable broadcasting operation, which has made a considerable difference in the lives of the many Middle Tennesseans who have experienced the pleasure of listening to the station's quality local news and entertainment broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, beginning as a regional radio station, through which local community news was gathered and broadcast, WDKN signed on the air on January 1, 1955; and

WHEREAS, WDKN's first owners were Bill Potts, Mitchell Hayes, and Jon Bailey, and Hal Smith was the station's first announcer; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to its strong commitment to community service, WDKN Radio raises money for the American Cancer Society with the annual Cancer Crusade Auction, the Humane Society of Dickson County with a radio-thon, Meals On Wheels with a yearly radio-thon, the Dickson County Help Center with the annual Dickson County Angel Tree program, and the Dickson County Marching Band with a radio-thon; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years WDKN has broadcast Dickson County sports, and in 1997, the station became an affiliate of the Tennessee Titans Radio Network, enabling WDKN to broadcast Titans football games; and

WHEREAS, an original partner in the Grand Old Hatchery, WDKN has interviewed such country music legends as Flatt & Scruggs, Bill Monroe, Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Tim McGraw, and Lee Ann Womack; and

WHEREAS, recognized for its excellence in both broadcasting and community service, WDKN received the 2002 Dickson County Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, the 2004 Titans Radio Partner of the Year Award, and an award from the Dickson County Soil Conservation District; in 2003, then-WDKN Music Director Chuck Dauphin was named the Music Director of the Year by *New Music Weekly*, a magazine in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, WDKN Radio has broadcast many historical moments in Dickson County; over the years, the station has covered Chamber of Commerce meetings which resulted in the development of the Dickson Industrial Park, the first Old Timers Day, Baltimore Colts Legend Johnny Unitas' visit to Dickson, and the funeral of former Governor Frank Clement, a native of Dickson County; and

WHEREAS, currently owned by Leroy Kennell, Oscar Eubank, and Tommy Edmisson, WDKN Radio is carrying on its rich heritage and tradition of excellence in radio broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to providing quality news and music to its listeners, WDKN has initiated many improvements that have strengthened the station's local news tradition and advanced the technical plant to qualify the station as one of the finest in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, providing vital information during extreme weather and other emergencies, WDKN broadcast round the clock during the ice storm of 1994 and during the 1998 tornado that ravaged the southern part of Dickson County; and

WHEREAS, with extremely talented and committed announcers, producers, and staff members, WDKN Radio is an exceptional asset to the greater Dickson County community; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding success of WDKN Radio is directly attributable to the reliance of its owners and employees on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to work well with many different people throughout their community; and

WHEREAS, the staff of WDKN Radio is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate the owners, on-air personalities and employees of WDKN Radio on fifty years of quality broadcasts to the good people of Middle Tennessee and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.